

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL DOUALA IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN

SUBJECT: IMPORTING DUTY-FREE POVS

1. EMBASSY CANNOT ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR GUARANTEEING PAYMENT OF DUTIES ON POV'S IMPORTED DUTY FREE INTO CAMEROON WITH SURRENDERING RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES GUARANTEED UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW.

2. REQUIREMENT OF LARGE DEPOSIT IN EFFECT NULLIFIES THE PRIVILEGES FROM IMPORT DUTY TO WHICH DIPLOMATS ENTITLED UNDER GENERALLY RECONGIZED PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AS REFLECTED IN VIENNA 36(1)(B).

3. EMBASSY SHOULD POINT OUT TO GURC (A) NO OTHER COUNTRY IN AFRICA REQUIRES SUCH GUARANTEES OF US DIPLOMATIC AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PERSONNEL. (B) USG DOES NOT EXPECT GURC TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR PERSONAL DEBTS OF ITS PERSONNEL IN THE US. (C) A DISTINCTION MUST BE MADE BETWEEN MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC MISSION AND OTHERS WHO HAVE DUTY FREE IMPORT PRIVILEGES. THE PAYMENT OF THE CHARGE TO THE BANK FOR ISSUING A GUARANTEE IS IN FACT REQUIRING THE US EMBASSY TO PAY FOR DIPLOMATIC EXEMPTION AS ACCORDED UNDER GENERALLY RECOGNIZED PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW.

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OBLIGATING US DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL TO DEPOSIT IN A

CAMEROONIAN BANK A CERTAIN SUM OF MONEY AGAINST SOME FUTURE OBLIGATION WHICH THEY MIGHT INCUR IS AGAINST ALL DIPLOMATIC PROCEDURE. (D) REQUIRING THE DEPOSIT OF AN AMOUNT OF MONEY EQUAL TO THE POSSIBLE DUTY ON A POV IN A BLOCKED ACCOUNT

ACCOUNT WOULD WORK AN EXTREME HARDSHIP ON US ASSISTANCE PERSONNEL MAKING IT VERY DIFFICULT TO RECRUIT FOR PROGRAMS IN CAMEROON.

4. SHOULD GURC NOT BE RESPONSIVE TO ABOVE AND WITHHOLD PRIVILEGES FROM US DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL, USG WILL HAVE TO REEXAMINE PRIVILEGES OF CAMEROONIAN EMBASSY PERSONNEL IN US ON BASIS OF RECIPROCITY.

5. DEPARTMENT CAN UNDERSTAND PROBLEMS OF GURC IN TRYING TO CONTROL DUTY FREE IMPORTS OF POV BY VARIOUS GROUPS, PRIVATE, GOVERNMENTAL, AND DIPLOMATIC. HOWEVER GURC MUST REALIZE THAT RESTRICTIONS PLACED ON PRIVATE FIRMS CANNOT BE PLACED ON DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS. THE FACT THAT ALL DUTY FREE IMPORT VEHICLES ARE ISSUED THE SAME TYPE OF LICENSE PLATE DOES NOT PUT EVERYONE IN THE SAME CLASS. CAMEROONIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON HAS ASSURED DEPARTMENT THAT GURC IS NOT TRYING TO INFRINGE UPON DIPLOMATIC COURTESIES AND HAS OFFERED TO CONTACT GURC IF WE REQUEST THEM TO DO SO. WE ARE PREPARED TO DO SO. WE WILL AWAIT FURTHER WORD FROM YOU. RUSH

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